

YUCCA MOUNTAIN SCOPING MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENTS

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Taken at the Lawlor Event Center
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, Nevada

On Wednesday, May 12, 2004
At 4:00 p.m.

Reported by: Deborah Ann Hines, CCR #473, RPR

Science has recommended that the waste be protected for at please 300,000 years. And you people are telling us that it will be safe for 10,000. Other scientific experts say it might make a hundred years, and I'm saying that's frightening.

So I believe that dry storage gives us time. That if you look back over 100 years you see that many scientific discoveries have come along that have helped mankind, and I'm thinking that this might happen in terms of nuclear waste as well. But yet we're creating a situation, one that is based on expediency, to dump this stuff into Nevada at Yucca Mountain so it will be off everybody's minds, but it's not really the way to handle it long-term.

Long-term would be to put the waste into dry storage in concrete, or whatever, up to 100 years, or whatever time it takes us to come up with some solution, and that once it's in Yucca Mountain that type of solution is no longer available to us. It just becomes a nightmare for future generations and generations.

And not only that but once Yucca Mountain is full of this 77,000 tons, or whatever it is that's supposed to go in there, we now have all the new nuclear waste that has been generated on the outside

JULIANA JOLDERSMA: My first comment is basically I'm offended by the nature of this process which I feel creates a situation where people are unable to connect with each other and to know what anyone else feels about the subject. In other words, it's a typical it seems to me process that keeps people unempowered in the situation. And I'm sure that this was designed this way. It was designed so there wouldn't be any public protest that any of us could connect to. It's a divide and conquer process as far I'm concerned. That's my first comment.

My second comment is I feel like the Department of Energy has used bad science all the way around in terms of this project, and that the project is being ramped down the throats of Nevadans because of our small population but that the science behind it mitigates against Yucca Mountain as a site.

And I say that based on, I'm not an expert, but what I understand about the fault lines, about the saturation of the rock, about the fact that the casks will begin to heat up over a hundred years, they'll be giving off steam and hit the water, it will be into the water table in Amargosa Valley within that hundred years probably.

I also know that the National Academy of

and now what? Now we start to build another Yucca Mountain or do we expand the storage area of Yucca Mountain beyond the point that it really was built to hold? And knowing mankind, when you got stuck with a problem, you try to make it work no matter what. And I imagine that's what they will try to do with disastrous effects.

So I think that this government is short-sighted. It's using bad science to its own advantage seemingly, and I'm mad. Bottom line, I am mad, as you can tell.

The other aspect of this whole situation that really bothers me is the fact that we are seemingly going to protect all of these shipments by rail and by truck, right? And I just don't know physically how the government really plans to do this unless they have just unlimited manpower to accompany these shipments. It's very, very much open to the human factor. And, I mean, to drivers who can be blackmailed or to shipments that could be waylaid. I mean, there are a lot of human factors in this situation that is highly important.

And, I mean, so I would assume that the government is planning to send, you know, brigades along with the shipments, you know. But really

Page 5

1 knowing what the budget is, which is we really don't
2 even have money for, you know, our schools, our
3 hospitals or anything, we're spending all our money
4 in Iraq, I really doubt that they're going to be able
5 to pay for enough security to get these things across
6 the Nevada desert and across the country safely with
7 enough manpower. So that's my question, you know.
8 Are they just going to make due?

9 I would like the scoping report made
10 available online.

11 SHAARON NETHERTON: I'm the Executive
12 director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. I guess
13 for tonight I'd just like to ask how you're
14 addressing the fact that the wilderness study areas
15 are within your rail corridor. I'd like to see how
16 that's addressed in the EIS and make sure that the
17 proposed corridor as it comes out is not affecting
18 any wilderness study areas and is outside all those
19 study areas.

20 DAVID PURVANCE: My address [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] I had somewhat of a
22 misperception as to what this meeting was about.
23 Apparently it's only addressing the transportation
24 issues and not the facility itself, not the Yucca
25 Mountain facility itself.

Page 6

1 So anyway, that may be the reason that, you
2 know, I'm getting turned down, but I have published a
3 paper in a peer review journal. It's called Water
4 Resources Research. It's an American Geophysical
5 Journal, union journal. It was published in December
6 2001, and it questions the DOE's understanding of
7 transport of radionuclides in the fractured rock
8 underneath Yucca Mountain.

9 So I brought this paper, and I have never
10 been formally, or I have never been given a response
11 to this paper of any sort from the DOE, and I would
12 like a formal response. And so I'm just saying that
13 they told me this was not the venue to do that.
14 Rather than them taking this issue forward and this
15 paper forward, they have essentially told me to send
16 it in to somebody someplace unbeknownst to me.

17 Also that, you know, I'm terribly
18 disappointed that they're not addressing more serious
19 issues such as the viability and the safety of the
20 Yucca Mountain facility itself, and I'm disappointed
21 that this meeting didn't address those issues also.

22 WALTER MAINBERGER: Minden, Nevada. My
23 statement is I feel that a scoping session of this
24 magnitude should be advertised much more thoroughly
25 in papers, TV, any other advertising venue that you

Page 7

1 can come up with besides what I see, which was one
2 little four line article in the Reno Gazette Journal
3 about five days ago and nothing since when there are
4 other papers, there is TV that could be used, radio,
5 many other advertising venues.

6 (Thereupon the proceedings
7 were concluded at 8:00 p.m.)

8 * * * * *

Page 8

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF NEVADA)

3 SS:

4 COUNTY OF CLARK.)

5 I, Deborah Ann Hines, certified shorthand
6 reporter, do hereby certify that I took down in
7 shorthand (Stenotype) all of the proceedings had in
8 the before-entitled matter at the time and place
9 indicated; and that thereafter said shorthand notes
10 were transcribed into typewriting at and under my
11 direction and supervision and the foregoing
12 transcript constitutes a full, true and accurate
13 record of the proceedings had.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed
15 my hand this 13th day of May, 2004.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Deborah Ann Hines, CCR #473